

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 0367

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT KS US

SUBJECT: SENATOR NUNN'S MEETING WITH NDP VICE SPEAKER YI
CHOL SUNG

1. TOWARD THE END OF HIS RECENT VISIT, SENATOR NUNN
EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO MEET A LEADING MEMBER OF THE
OPPOSITION PARTY. SINCE KIM YONG-SAM HAD DEPARTED
FOR WASHINGTON, THE SENATOR MET AT THE DCM'S
RESIDENCE WITH NDP VICE SPEAKER YI CHOL SUNG. THE
SENATOR WAS WARNED IN ADVANCE THAT YI WAS AN INTRA-
PARTY RIVAL OF KIM AND WOULD PROBABLY TAKE A MORE
MODERATE POSITION ON SOME ISSUES THAN CURRENT PARTY
LEADERSHIP.

2. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF YI'S RESPONSES TO
SPECIFIC QUESTIONS FROM THE SENATOR. (FULL MEMCON
FOLLOWS):

DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION: IMMEDIATE
PROBLEM IS ESSENTIALLY ONE OF LACK OF DIALOGUE
BETWEEN PRESIDENT PARK AND HIS SUPPORTERS, WHO
TAKE EXTREME POSITIONS ON THREAT FROM NORTH AND
OVERRIDING NECESSITY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
FOR OWN POLITICAL PURPOSES, AND HIS OPPONENTS, WHO
ALSO TAKE EXTREME POSITIONS.

THE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM IS THAT EXCESSIVE CON-
CENTRATION OF POWER UNDER YUSHIN CONSTITUTION
DENIES PEOPLE REAL VOICE IN GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER,
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LATTER IS PROBLEM FOR KOREANS TO SOLVE. PARK

IS PROUD AND SENSITIVE MAN WHO CANNOT BE COERCED BY ULTIMATUMS AND THREATS. IN THIS SENSE FRAZER AMENDMENT WAS MISTAKE. LIKE PRESIDENT, MOST KOREANS FOUND TERMS OF AMENDMENT OFFENSIVE TO NATIONAL PRIDE. US CAN BEST ASSIST KOREANS TO SOLVE OWN PROBLEM BY MAINTAINING STEADFAST POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR ROK, WHILE QUIETLY ADVISING PRESIDENT TO OPEN DIALOGUE WITH THOSE WHO QUESTION HIS POLICIES. GIVEN TIME PRESIDENT CAN EVENTUALLY BE PERSUADED TO MAKE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS.

POLITICAL PRISONERS: IN MOST CASES ARRESTS UNDER EMERGENCY MEASURES WERE JUSTIFIED. ACCUSED HAD BROKEN LAWS. WHILE MOST NOT COMMUNISTS, MANY WERE AT LEAST COMMUNIST DUPES.

UNIFICATION PROSPECTS: KOREANS MUST THINK IN TERMS OF "NEW UNIFICATION, NOT REUNIFICATION. THIS MEANS ESTABLISHING ENTIRELY NEW BASIS WHICH TAKES INTO ACCOUNT FACT THAT SYSTEMS IN TWO COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN SO RADICALLY DIFFERENT FOR SO LONG. BEGINNING CAN BE MADE ONLY WHEN STABILITY ON PENINSULA IS ASSURED THROUGH SOME AGREEMENT AMONG US, JAPAN, USSR, AND PRC.

US PRESENCE: PRESENCE OF AMERICAN FORCES IS BEST GUARANTEE THAT NORTH IS VERY REAL AND NO KOREAN WANTS TO SEE US FORCES REMOVED. FORCES WILL NOT HAVE TO STAY HERE FOREVER, BUT SHOULD NOT BE WITHDRAWN UNTIL ROK IS MUCH STRONGER OR A REAL INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL BASIS FOR STABILITY HAS BEEN ACHIEVED.
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